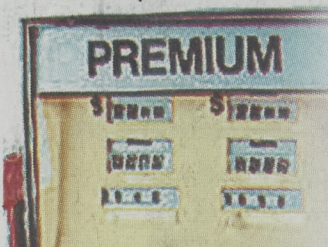


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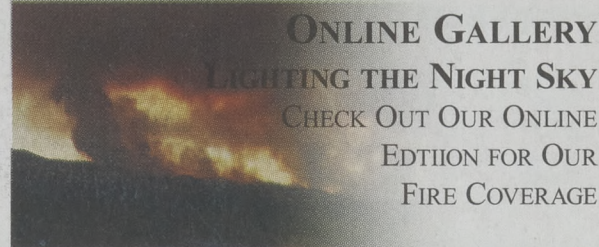
OPINION PG. 2
GAS PRICES
ARE FUEL PRICES A
DISTRACTION FROM
YOUR EDUCATION?



VALLEY LIFE PG. 4
SALSA FOR APPETIZER
VALLEY'S 2005 FALL
CONCERT STARTED
WITH FLAVOR



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DEFENDING HER TEAM
DOING HER PART
LADY MONARCHS FELL
SHORT TO BAKERSFIELD



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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 64, ISSUE NO. 4

OCTOBER 12, 2005

It's YOUR Newspaper

Valley Spices Up Katrina Relief Efforts

■ Valley College contributes to Hurricane Katrina relief effort with authentic New Orleans food and music among much more.

BY BRIAN DEAN
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College Katrina Relief Committee will host Valley's official fund-raiser for victims of last month's devastating hurricane. The goal is to raise \$7,500 and all proceeds will be divided between the Red Cross and Habitat for Humanity.

"We don't just want to have a party," said Jeanne Rubin, executive assistant to Valley College President Tyree Wieder. "We should do something educational."

The Oct. 26 event will open with Mississippi Delta Days, a series of short seminars, presented in Monarch Hall and created by Valley students and faculty. The talks are designed to heighten awareness of geographic regional issues. At lunchtime, Monarch Square will provide 'A Taste of New Orleans' complete with southern-style food and cool music provided by Woody James and his jazz octet.

Sally Raskoff, instructor of sociology, and Tara Lake from ethnic studies will discuss the socioeconomic issues surrounding the Mississippi Delta. Deborah Harrington, instructor of African-American literature, and her students will present literature from the area. History instructor Shannon Stack will

see Relief page 3



ARTAK AYVAZIAN / VALLEY STAR

HITCHIN' A RIDE - Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky discusses the opening of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority is currently test-driving the Orange Line, set to open Oct. 29. The \$300 million-plus busway runs through high activity locations, with 13 stops including stops at Valley and Pierce.

The Alternate Route to Valley

■ The Metro Orange Line will open this month to offer relief to commuters.

BY MARC HOWARD
STAFF WRITER

What once was a drawing on a napkin has become the Metro Orange Line busway - the Valley's newest transportation alternative.

Metropolitan Transportation Authority board member and Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky was the napkin artist who came up with the idea after observing a similar bus system while on a trip to Curitiba, Brazil.

"I'm very excited about the Orange Line," said Yaroslavsky at a recent meeting of community leaders and other local officials. "I think after you've taken a ride on it, you'll be

excited too."

The MTA calls the \$300 million-plus busway, which will open Oct. 29 "a shortcut across the Valley." Passengers will complete the 14-mile commute between North Hollywood and Warner Center in 40 minutes.

The Orange Line buses will stop at 13 stations located at high activity centers including Valley, Pierce College and the NoHo Arts District where commuters can transfer to the Metro Red Line. The stations include colorful porcelain steel art panels at station entries, terrazzo paving at platforms, sculpted seating and artistic landscaping elements. Buses will arrive every six minutes during rush hour on 'dedicated' non-traffic lanes. The new busway is equipped with specially designed sensors to allow Orange Line buses to

bypass most red lights.

The stations are well-lit and include seating, public telephones, security cameras, bicycle racks and ticket-vending machines. Electronic displays will notify passengers of wait times and other commuter-related information. The bus corridor is also a 'green belt' with hundreds of thousands of new plants and trees and more than eight miles of pedestrian and bicycle paths.

The line is expected to save commuters time and money as they face \$3-per-gallon gas prices and congested freeways.

"With gas prices the way they are now, I would take the bus to school to save some money," said criminal justice major Isoken Igodan. The

see Orange Line page 3

Valley, District Enrollment Down

■ Scheduling blamed for lower enrollment.

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS
ONLINE EDITOR

Enrollment at Valley College and Los Angeles Community College District is down for the third consecutive semester.

With 16,238 students enrolled this semester, Valley's student population decreased by 4 percent compared to last fall. Valley assembled the Enrollment and Marketing Task Force to figure out why enrollment fell this semester.

"If we had a schedule of classes that met the students' needs then we would have higher enrollment," said Tino Manzano, dean of admission and records, and task force chair.

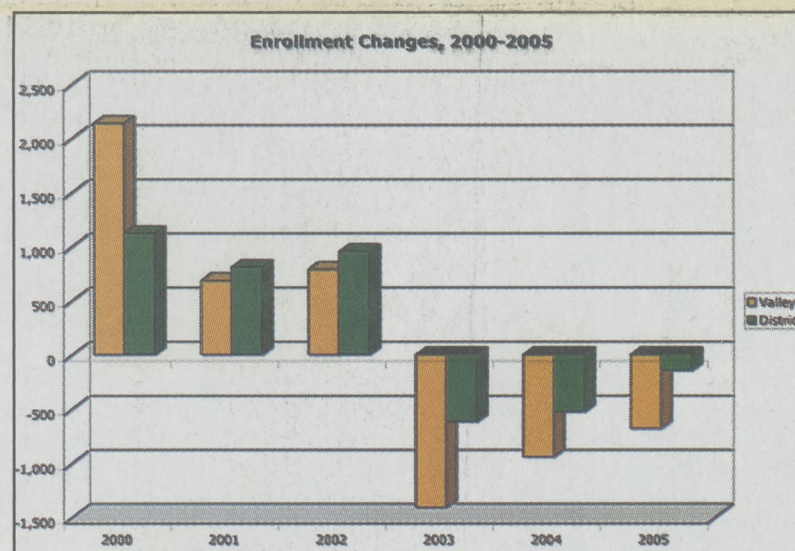
Manzano and the task force are planning marketing strategies to increase enrollment for the spring 2006 semester. Valley plans to reschedule class times

and offer more night classes, all to accommodate students' busy schedules. More English and math classes will also be added to the schedule because of the high demand for those courses. The task force will also mail mini class schedules to local residents.

The district, which is experiencing a 1 percent overall student decrease this year, is offering 3 percent more classes this fall than last, which LACCD Chancellor Darroch "Rocky" Young expected would have boosted district enrollment. The district also advertised more heavily than in past years.

Community college enrollment is down statewide as well as district-wide. Manzano blames lack of demand for the staggering numbers, saying that when the economy does well more people flock to the job market rather than taking classes. Valley President

see Enrollment page 3



Valley and the LACCD's enrollment over the past five years have mirrored one another, steadily increasing through 2002, then dropping each year since 2003.

VALLEY PEOPLE

Valley Student Does His Part to Aid Katrina Victims

■ Lessons taught in EMT class help Red Cross volunteer assist victims of Hurricane.

BY MAGGIE OWNBEY
OPINION EDITOR

Getting through the obstacles of fallen trees that blocked roads and Red Cross red tape, Valley College student and self-proclaimed trailblazer Michael Simonowski used skills learned in his Fire Tech 96 class to help the survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

"If I hadn't taken the EMT class I think I really would have been lost," said Simonowski. "They have their curriculum and

syllabus of what they teach us, but they also have personal insight."

Simonowski said that he almost failed the class during the practice trials. But because of the realistic conditions stressed in class and the encouragement from his dedicated teacher and chair of the emergency services department Dr. Alan Cowen, Simonowski not only passed, but took with him the skills that would come in handy far from home.

"He's a real class-act — they broke the mold," Simonowski said of Cowen, adding that Cowen brings 32 years of experience serving with the Los Angeles Fire Department to the class.

"We take our hat off to Michael for donating his time to go there and help people first hand," said Cowen. "Right where the rubber meets the road."

After two days of fast-track training with the Red Cross, only five and a half hours notice, Simonowski was no longer watching the Sept. 6 images of the disaster on TV—he was headed to Baton Rouge.

After the plane touched down, the 37-year-old Californian was in the south for the first time and stranded without a ride to the Red Cross headquarters — formerly Wal-Mart.

Calls to the Red Cross went unanswered—Simonowski and other volunteers found their own way to the shelter.

"The first few days it was pretty hectic," said Simonowski. "Nobody knew who was in charge."

"In the 125-year-history of the Red Cross this is the largest mobilization of staff and resources," said Nick Samaniego, Red Cross media relations associate. "[This was] a major hardship assignment," said Samaniego. "[They're] living and experiencing the same conditions of the people they're trying to help."

Samaniego added that this

would be an ongoing operation with the biggest problem being the location of housing for evacuees.

For the next two weeks Simonowski worked at the River Front Shelter in Alexandria, two hours north of Baton Rouge. Working 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. shifts, Simonowski was on-call for medical emergencies and complaints.

"People with diabetes needed insulin injections everyday, peo-

ple with mental health issues who were on prescriptions didn't have the prescriptions they needed," said Simonowski.

In one case a man had an acute asthma attack late at night. After two treatments he was still having a hard time breathing and spitting up blood. Simonowski tried to help him with his breathing and, with the help of a doctor, were able to get the man evacuated.

BRUSHFIRES OF 2005



ARTAK AYVAZIAN / SPECIAL TO THE STAR

APOCALYPSE LAST WEEK - Flames lit up the sky above Los Angeles County yet again as the Simi Valley wildfire burned for seven days. Another fire in the Burbank hills was visible from the Valley College campus. See our online gallery at www.lavalleystar.com.



MARIA LOW / VALLEY STAR

SIMONOWSKI SAYS - Valley student answers the call of duty.

CAMPUS CRIME

Up in Smoke

BY EDUARDO MORAN
STAFF WRITER

Drugs

Campus police found a Zip-loc bag containing marijuana in Lot A while on a routine patrol Tuesday Oct. 4. The owner was not found.

Theft

A parking permit was stolen from a car in Lot A Wednesday, Oct. 5 between 7:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. The vehicle's owner found the passenger door, which does not lock, open and the permit missing. Campus police have no suspects or witnesses.

A black leather purse containing \$855 in personal belongings was stolen from the pool house locker room between 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 4. The victim

see Crime page 3

The Valley College Sheriff's Department asks that anyone with information regarding any of these incidents please call the department at (818) 947-2911.

Driven to Distraction By Gas-Fueled Greed

■ High gas prices equal less for you, much more for them.

BY WILL REYES
STAFF WRITER

American motorists are getting punked at the pump.

Gas prices remain at record-highs across the country after rising in many states due to the damage caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

According to Reuters, U.S. prices reached an all-time peak average of more than \$3 a gallon.

So who loses when gas prices soar?

You do.

Drivers all across the country are feeling the effects of the high cost of gasoline, forcing them to drive less, seek out public transportation, bicycles and even cut costs in other areas.

A recent CNN/Money article took a look at how Americans are adapting, and the ways in which entire families are affected in work, school and home.

"I have started making my children ride the school bus, which they hadn't done before," said one mother affected by the prices. "I also cut back on groceries and my children carry snacks to school instead of buying from the snack bar. Even after these measures, I am still putting gas on the credit card."

Despite the similar efforts of people across the country, many are left struggling with their budgets.

Valley College students, many of who have long commutes to and from school, are

also feeling the financial squeeze.

"These prices are crazy," said liberal arts major Roberto Guidel. "I spend \$60 to \$80 a week on gas coming to school."

The high prices even caused one student to change cars.

"I used to drive a Ford Explorer and spend \$70 a week on gas," said business major Steven Ruiz. "Now I drive a smaller Toyota Corolla to save money."

There must be a good reason for the high prices.

Gas giants like Exxon and others must be in financial despair and feel forced to charge more, right?

Well, a 2005 BBC article stated that Exxon Mobil saw a profit of \$25 billion in 2004, and had a record fourth quarter profit of \$8.4 billion.

Not exactly music to Americans' ears, unless you happen to hold stock in Exxon.

Why don't the companies lower the prices if they are seeing record profits?

"These profits probably appear gross, and consumers wonder why they're not lowering the prices," said Mark Baxter, a director of an energy institute at Southern Methodist University, in the Seattle Times. "They could do that, but the first time they did, the CEO would get fired."

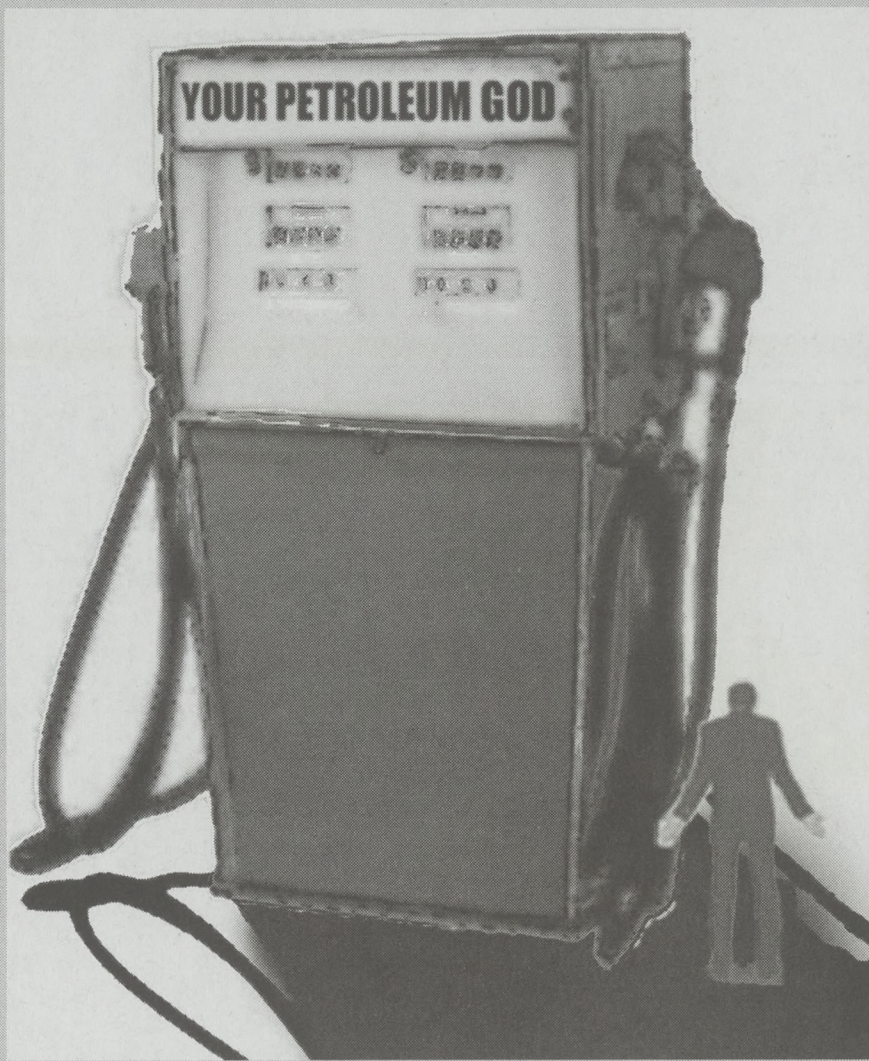


ILLUSTRATION BY DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR
OIL-LELUJAH - The price of gas passes the realm of the acceptable.

With CNN/Money also reporting that bicycle sales will likely reach a near record 20 million units sold this year, and a nearly 3 percent drop in U.S. fuel demand over the past month, maybe its time Americans show the companies that they won't be taken advantage of and find alternative means.

As the same oil companies that are seeing these record profits receive billions of dollars in tax breaks thanks to the recently passed energy bill from Dick Cheney and his energy empire's inner circle, it seems the only ones suffering are us. Sadly, this isn't a TV show prank, it's the truth.

The Three Rs of College: Reading, Writing, Recruiters

BY CARLOS LOPEZ
STAFF WRITER

Military recruiters have set up camp at Valley College, but for students, there is really no choice.

No public high schools or colleges have banned the recruiters from their campuses, mostly because of the fear of losing federal funding. Section 9528 of the No Child Left Behind Act, signed into law by President Bush on January 2002, grants the Pentagon access to names, addresses, and phone numbers of every public high school student, making it easier for recruiters to contact students, unless parents contact the school to opt out.

Not only are recruiters coming to our schools to see who takes the bait, but now our government is giving them the power to know where we live and can communicate with us outside of school.

"They told me that they would pay for my schooling if I joined," said Valley student Ana Castillo. "It sounds really good when you hear it, but then you think about maybe getting killed in war."

Since 2003, recruiters have concentrated on getting the word out to students at community colleges across the country, trying to tap into them knowing students are desperately seeking a way to get their education without being in deep debt for years to come. But they have not been well-received. In Seattle and San Francisco, for example, there have been protests to try to stop recruiters from doing their job.

War is certainly not on students' minds when the recruiter offers up to \$22,000 over the length of enlistment to help pay for college if they join the Army Reserve and up to \$70,000 for active duty. That's \$70,000 to put your life on the line. You will definitely have enough money to pay for a decent education, and they also offer pretty good health care, but is that what's going to be on your mind when you're in a trench being shot at by Iraqi insurgents?

The armed forces offer great opportunities for those who take them, but in reality, the risk greatly outweighs the reward. This country is now fighting a war that it will not be able to get away from for years to come.

This is a big reason why the number of enlistees has not kept up with recent years or even met the quota of the services. The Marines lowered their monthly quota in May from 8,050 to 6,700 and still fell short by about 25 percent. This is the fourth straight monthly shortfall.

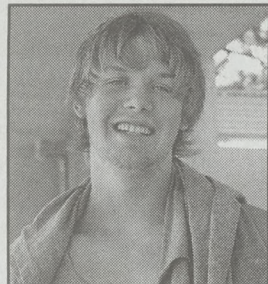
It's a brutal form of advertising. It becomes part of your everyday life. These are the same people who were trying to sell you their military propaganda since your sophomore year in high school, and now they're so desperate that they can follow you off campus when you're in college.

It is not fair to those students who are in school and also working to buy themselves books and school supplies for somebody to come and offer them an alternative that might eventually lead to their early death.

Campus View

How do rising gas prices affect you?

PHOTOS BY MARIA LOW



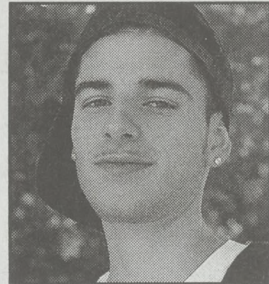
"It forced me to get my own apartment and live with my teammates. I moved from Long Beach."

Brandon Burnside
Undecided Major



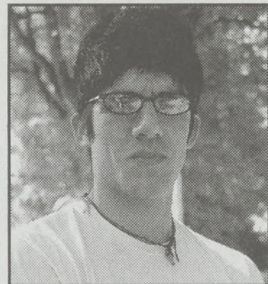
"It's not easy, it makes more people want to take the bus. I wanted a car, but I pay \$12 for a bus pass."

Iesha Billups
Sociology Major



"It's tough getting to school, I come two to three times a day for basketball practice. Gas is expensive, \$3 a gallon is outrageous."

Adam Nicklas
Undecided



"I don't feel the change, you do what you gotta do sometimes. I try not to think about it."

Javier Gamboa
Undecided

Conspiracies Are Like Backsides...

■ When choosing theories, be a smart shopper.

BY BRIAN DEAN
STAFF WRITER

Some people who refuse to accept the explanation of events disseminated by the government are thought of as kooks and wackos, even when key pieces of evidence remain unexplained, unrefuted or contradictory to facts.

Other people make unsettling claims with no tangible proof to back them up.

These are two very different types who too often get lumped into the same category, resulting in even greater difficulty in persuading people to listen.

Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, belongs in the second category with his recent statement that a section of the levee in New Orleans may have been intentionally demolished.

He claimed a "very reliable source" saw a 25-foot-deep crater underneath the levee breach, and that it was done to deliberately harm the low-lying, poor black neighborhoods. Though he couched this statement in uncertain terms, the seed was planted.

To date, no reliable evidence of this claim has been offered. The only scrap of what might be considered proof comes from ABC News clip in which a New Orleans resident told a reporter

that he believed the levee was blown up because he heard a loud "boom" when it broke. It would be surprising if, when a giant concrete block crumbled beneath tons of water, it didn't make a sound.

In addition, Farrakhan points to the far right-wing radio talk show host Hal Turner for an unsubstantiated claim that a diver with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers seized a suspicious looking piece of levee debris, and the secret examination of it found traces of high explosives.

Of course the diver and his superior have no names; the "trusted military friends" at the U.S. Army Forensic Laboratory where the analysis took place have no names.

This type of feeble "information" comes from "well-placed sources" speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Claims like these only hurt more credible ones that go against official explanations. It takes too much speculation and too much blind faith to believe in theories with no empirical evidence behind them. They tend to be based on emotions and rely on some type of keen insight into the perpetrator's hidden agenda.

If we are to believe Farrakhan's claims with the shoddy evidence offered so far, we must also buy into his assertions that there exists a power behind the scenes whose intention is to destroy black people.

Not to say he's wrong. It's not outside the realm of possibility that people with these types of evil intentions exist.

Though skeptics are more focused on the shocking nature of Farrakhan's statement rather than the little evidence offered, the path to his conclusion is highly subjective.

Objective evidence, on the other hand, exists for very important and unresolved issues like Sept. 11, 2001.

People refuse to listen with open minds, partly because the thought of being labeled a crackpot is so undesirable.

If people dare take the time to watch documentaries like "Loose Change" by Dylan Avery or "Painful Questions" by Eric Hufschmidt, they fear their reputations will be irreparably damaged.

Yet those documentaries present clear evidence based on science and that disprove the official 9/11 story. Believers need not approach this type of evidence with a preconceived grievance against the government.

Can an aircraft with 124-foot wingspan fit into a 20-foot hole and leave only scraps of debris on the Pentagon lawn? Is it possible for two 110-story buildings to collapse at free-fall speed, apparently the first two steel structures in history to be brought down by fire?

These are questions that non-skeptics continue to ignore.

Even the 9/11 Commission, charged with organizing a "full and complete account" of the events of that day, has only dealt with the evidence that supports the official story.

Despite the slander intended by labeling them "theories," many speculations of conspiracies have proven out.

But because of the human desire to avoid mockery, it has become easier to ridicule ideas rather than confront them with truth.

LETTERS

THE VALLEY STAR tries to print as many letters from its readers as possible. Letters should not exceed 300 words and must include the author's full name, major or connection to Valley College, and contact information.

Racism? Think Again

To anyone who thinks racism did not play a part in the pathetic response to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, ask yourself this question: would the governments' response have been different had it been Kennebunkport or Crawford, Texas?

If the faces we saw at the Superdome and Convention

Center were not that of poor black democrats, but instead rich white republicans? To say race played no part in the disgraceful response to Katrina is naïve at best.

Witness former drug czar William J. Bennett's recent remarks: "[if] you wanted to reduce crime ... if that were your sole purpose, you could abort every black baby in this country, and your crime rate would go down." Tell me again how "we are not as a nation or a government racist?"

To assert that "neither the president nor anyone else, including the news in the first twenty-four hours," knew of the hurricane's devastation defies logic.

It's the president's job to know what's going on!

In this age of instant communication, one only has to turn on the television. But maybe

Crawford, Texas doesn't have cable. If anything, the sight of thousands of black faces in desperation should have prompted the authorities to move even faster, if only to avoid the appearance of any discrimination. Alas, for poor New Orleans, it wasn't an election year.

Now [that] we are learning the initial reports of murder and mayhem have mostly been discounted, the implications are obvious. Even the [New Orleans] Times-Picayune Editor Jim Amoss — someone who should know — points out succinctly, "If the dome and Convention Center had harbored large numbers of middle class white people," Amoss said, "it would not have been a fertile ground for this kind of rumor-mongering."

- KIRSTEN STEAVENSON
ENGLISH & ACCOUNTING MAJOR

NEWS

3

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Résumés Open Doors

■ It's your calling card – a visual cue for employers to ask detailed questions.

By HOLLY DARE
COPY EDITOR

You're in school working toward a bright future and inevitably your thoughts turn to your dream job. But before you can get that job you'll need a résumé.

Writing a résumé is a scary proposition – especially if you have little job experience.

"That's the challenge in writing résumés," said Hanna Pettersson, director of the Cooperative Education Program at Valley College, which provides resume and job search workshops to all students. "Above all, you should never lie on your résumé."

By following a few simple tips, you can fill that page and give your potential employer information and interview cues. Keep in mind, a piece of paper will not get you a job – but it should indicate that you are interested in work and give some hint at your personality.

Before applying for any job, take a few minutes to find out a little bit about the business. Visit its website or call to find out exactly what the company does, how many employees it has, its hours of operations, how long it has been in business, its exact address and the name of the person who reviews online and snail mail résumé submissions. This will pay off at the interview stage and also help in writing a cover letter.

Top: Include your name and contact information. If applying for a job via the Internet, do not use your whole address but do include your city. It is realistic

Tips For Submitting Your Résumé Online

- Treat the body of the e-mail as a cover letter. Highlight your skills and demonstrate your knowledge of the company.
- Never use slang in an e-mail to a potential employer.
- Check and re-check your spelling.
- Insert a header with contact info on every page. Many employers complain of hundreds of responses to online jobs. Once they print a batch of résumés, they often have no idea how to contact potential interviewees.
- Follow instructions for attaching a résumé to the letter. Companies will usually specify that the applicant either attach the résumé or paste it into the body of the e-mail.

that an employer in Long Beach may not want to hire someone who lives in the Valley.

Objective: Do not be vague. "A fulfilling job that utilizes my skills and abilities" may be confusing to an employer; "staff accountant position" is not. It's a good idea to change this wording with every job you apply for, using the name of each position. Employers will never have a doubt which job you want.

Experience: This is the intimidating section. But there are ways to expand on your experience. Don't just say you worked at McDonald's. Instead, spell out each and every job duty. Use action verbs to describe your duties.

Example: McDonald's – Customer Service. Duties: Filled order requests for customers, prepared food, handled money, inventoried food and supplies, assisted manager in scheduling employees.

Listing each duty on its own line will help fill the page.

Other Information: This section can cover almost anything: Awards, achievements, hobbies, volunteer work. List anything that shows you possess job skills your future employer may find valuable. Do you have a good GPA? Did you manage the high

school candy store?

This is also a good place to write about anything that makes you unique and interesting. Do you paint murals, ride horses, participate in sports leagues? These areas of interest provide an opportunity for the interviewer to connect with you on a different level. Employers hire people they are able to relate to and understand.

References: For someone older or with lots of job experience, this should be a stand-alone page, but you probably still have a lot of white space to fill. I suggest the following style change: If you are fortunate enough to have a lot of job experience, this will be a stand-alone page. For those whose work history is brief, include at least three people who could speak to a potential employer about your skills.

By following these tips, your résumé should look terrific. If you are still unsure, drop off a copy of it in the Cooperative Education in Bungalow 48 and schedule a private follow-up review appointment. Résumé workshops will be held October 12, 20 and 25 and November 5 and 14. Phone Cooperative Education for enrollment reservations: (818) 947-2333.

'Orange Line'

continued from page 1

express busway will take its place as Valley's first major transit service since the opening of the Metro Red Line in 2000. This will also be the first time that the new 60-foot Metro Liner buses will be in service within Los Angeles County.

It remains to be seen whether the convenience and low cost of riding the Orange Line will

be enough of a draw to get motorists out of their cars.

"I used to ride the bus and I don't like it," said broadcasting major Gerardo Carbajal. "I don't really care if I could save a few dollars or a few minutes by taking the Orange Line...I'd rather be driving."

Orange Line passengers will ride for free during opening weekend. Fares start at \$1.25 for a one-way ticket and \$3 for an unlimited day pass, good on other MTA bus and train lines.

pockets was open and her phone was missing. No suspects or witnesses have been reported.

Vandalism

Vandals caused \$150 in damages when they marked the compactor wall by Monarch stadium with black spray paint Saturday, Oct. 1 between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. No suspects or witnesses have been reported.

A vandal left his marks using red marker in the men's bathroom of the business/journalism building Wednesday, Sept. 28, causing \$200 in damage. A search turned up no suspects or witnesses.

sure that once we get students here we meet their needs."

Of the nine colleges in the district, five have higher enrollment compared to last fall, with the other four registering drops of 1 to 6 percent. Valley, which has one of the four largest student populations in the district, was on a steady increase from 1995 to 2002, but started to

'Relief'

continued from page 1

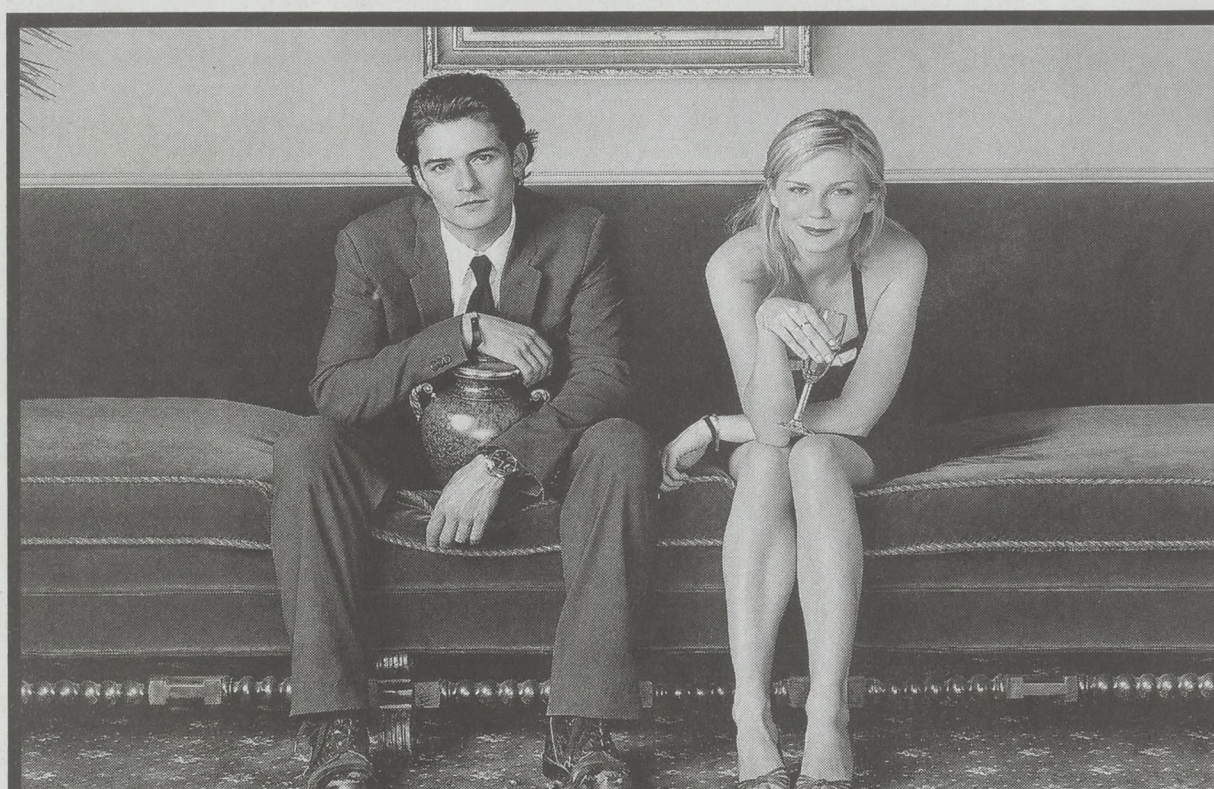
present a multi-media exploration of the history of New Orleans. Meredith Leonard from the environmental science department will give a presentation on global warming and disaster preparedness. Dance instructor Geordi Wright will dance to zydeco music.

The Associated Student Union is selling raffle tickets at \$1 each or \$5 for seven. Top prizes include an iPod donated by the bookstore, a digital camera, and a portable DVD player. Other prizes include umbrellas and blankets from the Monarch Golf Tournament and two \$15 Art's Deli gift certificates. The drawing will be held at 1:30 p.m.

The lunch menu includes fried chicken and red beans with rice. Tickets are on sale now at the bookstore, academic affairs, student services, south gym, business office and Patron's office: \$5 for students and \$10 for non-students, in Monarch Hall at 9:45 a.m.

dip the following year. Since 2003 Valley's enrollment numbers have steadily decreased.

Manzano said that the decrease is disappointing and though it's only 4 percent, Valley would ideally be growing, with an enrollment increase of 8 or 9 percent per semester.



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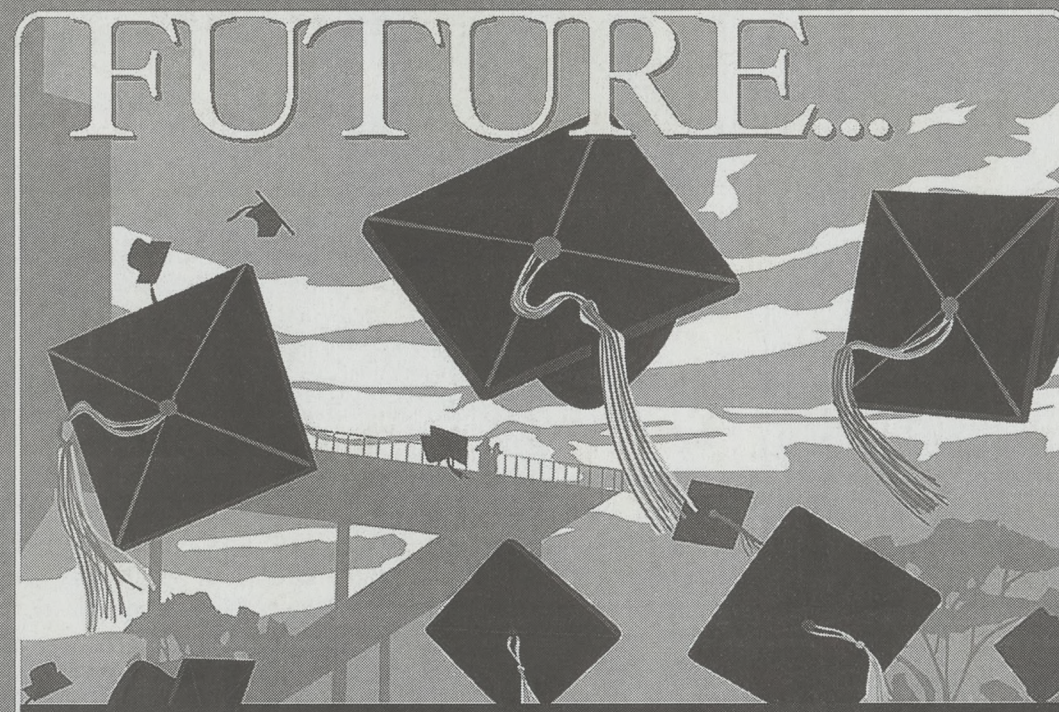
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'Enrollment'

continued from page 1

Tyree Wieder is focusing on serving students once they get here, as well as building numbers.

"We're now taking a look at how we can improve class schedules, marketing and advertising," said Wieder. "We're also making

WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

Wednesday, Oct. 12

Annie
Pantages Theatre
7:30 p.m.
\$22.50-\$65.50
(323) 468-1770

Fat Joe
House of Blues
Anaheim
8 p.m.
\$27.50-\$30
(714) 778-2583

Thursday, Oct. 13

All Wear Bowlers
Kirk Douglas
Theatre
8 p.m.
\$20-\$40
(213) 628-2772

Friday, Oct. 14

Ronan Tynan
Wilshire Theatre
8 p.m.
(323) 468-1716

Movie Releases:
"Domino" (R)
"Elizabethtown"
(PG-13)
"The Fog" (PG-13)

Santana
Home Depot
Center
5:30 p.m.
\$30.50-\$90.50
(310) 630-2020

Saturday, Oct. 15

Ann Marsh
Dutton's Brentwood
Bookstore
2 p.m.
Free
(310) 476-6263

An Invitation to Write
Math-Science
Building
Room 114
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
(818) 947-2407

Sunday, Oct. 16

Los Angeles Philharmonic
Walt Disney
Concert Hall
2 p.m.
\$15-\$125
(323) 850-2000

Tim Allen
Hollywood Improv
7 p.m.
(323) 651-2583

Monday, Oct. 17

An Evening of Comedy to Benefit Hurricane Katrina Survivors
The Wilton LG
7 p.m.
(213) 380-5005

Tuesday, Oct. 18

DVD Releases:
"Batman Begins"
(Two-Disc Deluxe
Edition) (PG-13)
"Adventures of
Superman-The
Complete First
Season"
"Land of the Dead"
(Unrated Edition)

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FALL CONCERT SERIES

Salsa Is Appetizer for Concert Series

BY JESUS ESQUIVEL
STAFF WRITER

Last Thursday, Oct. 6, Valley College alumni Ronnie Gutierrez and his band DW3 performed an hour's worth of percussive feel-good Latin salsa to an audience of students, teachers and community members in a packed Music Room 112.

The first song featured a battery of rhythm that resembles the mechanic workings of a locomotive going by at 90 miles per hour. Congas, bongos, timbales and a drum kit slapped and beat the groove under the thick bass line of this eight-piece ensemble.

The music had an upbeat dance groove accented by cowbells. The keyboards and bass laid down a strong foundation under the enticing choruses that had audience members dancing from the waist up in their chairs. The ones who stood even had a small shake in their hips.

The songs varied from straight salsa to a smooth, bouncy, funk-R&B. They played a radio-friendly slow tune with tight three-

piece vocal harmonies that chanted, "Don't let no-body get you down." The set also included two crowd-pleasing Santana covers, "Oye Como Va" and "Corazon Espinado." The band put their own twists on the covers, adding drum solos that left bongo player Brian Roth's fingers blood-red from all the hard-hitting.

This free show was the second event for fall 2005 Concert Series. Performances are held Thursdays at 11:30a.m. in the Music Recital Hall or Music Room 112. Events will include the Valley Jazz Band, Valley Choir and Chamber Singers. They will also feature piano, wind and string recitals from various music faculty members.

The show ended with Gutierrez soloing on the timbales working the audience to cheers and whistles when he paraded on the timbales while twirling both sticks in his hand in a spaghetti western fashion.

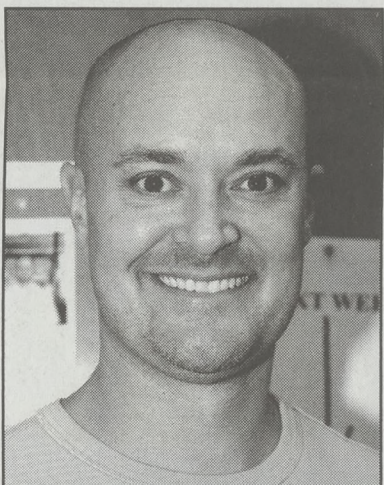
For information pick up a fall 2005 Concert Series event schedule in the music building or call (818) 947-2346.



THAT'S HOT - The 2005 Fall Concert Series opened late September with a performance by DW3 featuring Ronnie Gutierrez. Eric Mondragon on keyboard and vocals, Billy Mondragon on percussion and vocals, David Mondelongo on vocals, Bryant Siono on bass and Tony Goss on guitar. The band is treating audiences to performances in the music building, Room 112 through Dec. 12. DW3's performances are being offered free to anyone interested their Latin R&B and Old School stylings.

Public Speaking: A Feat Worse Than Death

■ Valley speech program helps students overcome Americans' No. 1 fear.



NINA BRUCKNER / VALLEY STAR
SPOKEN WORD SMITH - Speech instructor and forensics coach Duane Smith helps Valley students overcome their public speaking fears.

BY WILL REYES
STAFF WRITER

Walk late into one of Duane Smith's Speech 101 classes on the first day and you'll be stopped at the door and told to stand in front of the class. Nervous and perhaps a bit confused, you'll then be asked to answer a few questions.

"Tell us about your last romantic experience," Smith will say with a large smile on his face. "Or how about your most memorable one?" Chuckles will spread across the classroom, accompanying a look of shock and embarrassment on your face. For some reason, you answer anyway.

"Welcome to Speech 101, have a seat," Smith says.

How's that for an ice breaker? A requirement of the General Education program at Valley College, Speech 101 is not just another class you feel forced to take. Public speaking - the number one fear in America according to Readers Digest - is something the speech program helps students conquer.

"I went from having a phobia of public speaking to winning medals at national tournaments," said Carolyn Bates, a member of Valley's speech team, which won nine medals at April's national tournament. "It's an amazing opportunity for students here, it's life-changing and helped me become much

more confident." Smith, who was diagnosed with dyslexia at age 7 and failed courses at three colleges, overcame those obstacles and became a professor. "I had failed at everything, and one day I took a speech class with Betty Ballew here at Valley," said Smith. "She told me I had a 'strong presence' and asked me to join the speech team. She gave me confidence, and the rest is history."

Smith chose to teach speech classes because of the importance of speaking skills in the real world.

"School is here to help you learn, and the number one thing employers look for is good communication skills," said Smith. "The speech program can teach you how to be an excellent communicator."

Smith coaches the speech team with colleague Josh Miller, and both are favorites among their students.

"The coaches are amazing," said Rachel Resnick, a former student in Smith's 101 class and a current member of the speech team. "Duane is an awesome teacher who's devoted to what he does, a lot of students are shy at first but he really opens up about his own life to make you feel comfortable."

With speeches about culture and history, personal experiences and even one that requires students to go out and have dinner together, the class creates a fun and close-knit environment, easing students into overcoming their fear. The experience of both the classes and speech team leaves a lasting effect on many students.

"I always get e-mails from students letting me know how much the program helped their lives and careers," said Smith.

The speech program has 20 courses available this fall semester. Students who join the team are offered scholarships and the chance to participate in tournaments in order to win awards.

Students interested in the program can visit the speech team office in bungalow 24. All students are welcome. As Smith put it, "Anyone with a voice and a heartbeat can do well in speech."

THEATRE REVIEW

"Bar Tabs" Worth the Price of Admission

BY TAMMY FUNICELLO
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Valley College's "Brief Encounters" was an impressive display by first-time writers premiering their work and student actors bringing to life what they created. While for the most part, all the plays were entertaining, "Bar Tabs" stole the show.

The theatre department put on four one-act plays written by last spring's Theatre 130 students, last weekend to a nearly sold-out crowd in the Horseshoe Theatre.

Ron Rizzo's "The Woods" is about two hit men (Roger Rodd and J Alexander), who are trying to bury a body when it disappears.

The actors' chemistry was entertaining although the play

went on a little too long and had an abrupt and confusing ending.

"Don't Hang Up," by Terence West, is about a Vietnam veteran (Shane Thomann), who finds the girl who hung up on him when he called her to ask her help while he was at war.

The plot was suspenseful and the show quick-paced, but the actors needed some work to be more believable.

Although each of the plays had their strengths, the weakest seemed to be "Edo" by Tom Jasper. The play, narrated by Alex Bowerman, was about a day in the life of a Japanese fisherman. A narrator read the story with the cast acting out what she was saying. That is a difficult technique to pull off, and although the actors did

the best they could, it was a little slow and hard to follow.

"Bar Tabs," by Joseph O'Connell, had the most interesting and humorous dialogue of the night, most of which can't be printed.

The play takes place in a drinking establishment where bartender Jack O'Brien, played by Addison Randall, tells the ribald and funny stories of three regular customers.

This witty and raunchy play was definitely the best of the night, making the audience laugh hysterically. Randall's quick delivery earned him the loudest applause of the night.

For the most part, this hour-and-a-half show had good scripts and actors who got into their roles, but none of them could compare to "Bar Tabs."

FILM REVIEW

Money Wasted on "Two"

TWO FOR THE MONEY
Director: D.J. Caruso
Features: Al Pacino and
Matthew McConaughey
★ (out of five)

BY NICK SANTONI
STAFF WRITER

The word-of-mouth on "Two for the Money" was to expect the same old teacher/pupil Pacino flick. You know the kind - Pacino takes a younger, ambitious-type under his wing to ultimately teach him some grand lesson. Include a plot, presumably filled with all the same old clichés and high-volume rants that have become the trademark of Pacino's work and there you have it, right? Unfortunately, this proves to be the case. It's just a bad movie.

This time Pacino shares the screen with wannabe heartthrob Matthew McConaughey in a film that focuses on football, betting and the intricacies of gambling. Instead of living the dream of being a pro athlete, Brandon Lang (McConaughey),



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL STUDIOS
OLD DOG, OLD TRICKS - Al Pacino fails on bad habits in bankrupt "Two for the Money."

an ex-football player, resorts to employment at a 900 number giving tips on various subjects ranging from relationships to the stock market. After discovering that part of the network is related to sporting advice (primarily football), he learns he has a knack for picking the winners. Suddenly, Lang receives an offer he can't refuse from, you guessed it, Mr. Al Pacino himself. His name is Walter Abrams, the CEO of a fairly influen-

tial gambling network claiming to pick sports winners at high averages. Thus, enter the aforementioned teacher/pupil theme. Abrams has noticed that this kid has a gift, and the time has come to capitalize on it despite the many risks involved.

What ensues are all the same sort of remedial plot turns one may associate with a film such as this-nothing more, nothing

see Money page 5

News

5

'Movie'

continued from page 4

less; Issues concerning success, failure, trust and the effect money and greed can have on people and those who get caught up in the aftermath that is left behind. Throw in the stereotypical intimidating hood-types and jealous losers, and what you've got is the same, tired formula, one that never delves any deeper than the surface. And what the film most desperately is lacking is another dimension to the char-

acters and the world in which they are living. Instead it only touches upon all the same contrivances.

While Pacino can be amusing at times, he returns to the loud-mouthed shtick that we have grown to expect from him. It's just not nearly as entertaining as it used to be, perhaps because it has been done so many times before. McConaughey is always playing the same straight character; minus any sort of nuances that would set this role aside from any other he's played. Maybe girls will enjoy taking in his buffer body but that alone

won't save this film.

The movie could have been a lot more interesting if it only would have gone a step further. Sadly, director D.J. Caruso never decides which direction to take. The introduction of Lang to this new world could have been explored much further. Screenwriter Dan Gilroy toyed with the idea of alter egos that could emerge in this type of setting but it never gathers any steam. And this also goes for Pacino's Abrams, who subjects us to constant lip-flap that never makes anyone want to know more about the char-

acter. Ultimately, Caruso seems determined to pour in as many different ideas and concepts as possible, rather than broadening or expanding a single one. All that remains is the teacher/pupil equation he started off with, but minus any grand lesson--Unless refraining from gambling some great moral.

Instead catch another one of the films that opened last weekend, because "Two for the Money" is simply not worth the gamble.

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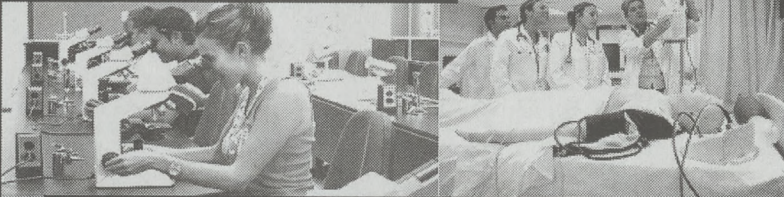
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teaching tip #59

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SPORTS

LAVC SCORES

Stars of the Week (10/12/05)

M. Cross Country: Michael Stotland; named Cross Country player of the week.

W. Cross Country: Nanor Tobejan; named Cross Country player of the week. Tobejan beat her personal

Football vs. Ventura (L 23-21) 10/01
Jackson: 27-47 passing; 265 yards; 1 TD
Jones: 8-18 passing; 65 yards; 2 TDs
Palmer: 10 catches; 109 yards; 1 TD
Palmeres: 4 catches; 56 yards; 2 TDs
Football Record: 0-5

W. Soccer vs. Bakersfield (L 2-0) 10/07
W. Soccer Record: 3-8

Cross Country@WSC Preview
Meet 10/07 (College of the Canyons)
Men: Placed 11th, 254 points
Michael Stotland: 37th 23:57
Jordan Castellanos: 43rd 24:17
Sergio Rubalcaba: 60th 25:06
Casey Locurto: 63rd 25:07
Salvador Mendoza: 67th 25:17
Francisco Rodriguez: 69th 25:17.9
Christian Rodriguez: 103rd 27:57

Women:
Alma Palacios: 33rd 22:52.44
Natahsa Ibrahim: 62nd 26:09.96
Nanor Tobejan: 77th 31:05.66

M. Water Polo@Citrus Tourney
10/07-08
vs. Grossmont (L 9-8)
vs. Saddleback (W 9-7)
vs. Palomar (L 10-9)
vs. Ventura (W 12-7)
M. Water Polo Record: 12-5

LAVC SCHEDULE

Wednesday 10/12/05
M. Water Polo vs. Cuesta 3 pm
W. Water Polo vs. Cuesta 4:30 pm

Thursday 10/13/05
No Scheduled Games

Friday 10/14/05
M. Water Polo@ Goldenwest/Long Beach
W. Water Polo@Citrus Invitational

Saturday 10/15/05
W. Water Polo@Citrus Invitational
Cross Country@ Santa Barbara Invit.
Football vs. L.A. Southwest 7 pm

Sunday 10/16/05
No Scheduled Games

Monday 10/17/05
No Scheduled Games

Tuesday 10/18/05
W. Soccer@Glendale

Wednesday 10/19/05
M. Water Polo vs. Ventura 3 pm
W. Water Polo vs. Ventura 4:30 pm

Thursday 10/20/05
No Scheduled Games

Pro Sports

By: Sam Hahn; Sports Editor

NFL

Tampa Bay Buccaneer cornerback Ronde Barber inadvertently punched umpire Butch Hannah in the eye during an altercation in the second quarter of Tampa Bay's game against the New York Jets. Hannah remained in the game after the incident that took place on Sunday, October 9th.

MLB

NL The Atlanta Braves fell to the Houston Astros 3-1 in the NLDS as Chris Burke hit a homerun on a 2-0 pitch from Atlanta reliever Joey Devine to defeat the Braves 7-6 in 18 innings. This game marked historical significance, as it was the longest postseason game played in MLB history.

AL

The Anaheim Angels defeated the New York Yankees in game 5 of the ALDS. The Angels will meet the Chicago White Sox in the ALCS, who swept the Boston Red Sox in three games.

NHL

The NHL returned on October 7, after a one year layoff due to the strike that caused the cancellation of the 2004-05 season. Making many rule changes during its hiatus, the NHL is re-tooled as many aspects of the game were changed to increase scoring, and eliminate ties all-together.



For more sport photos and stories, please visit
www.lavalleystar.com

SOCCER

Lady Monarchs Suffer Ninth Loss, 2-0

BY SAM HAHN
SPORTS EDITOR

Valley continued its league play and fell 2-0 against the Bakersfield Renegades Friday in a game that featured a few arguments.

After the game, two Valley players needed to be restrained, as head coach Erick Archila attempted to calm high tempers.

"Well, there was a lack of communication during the game that caused tension among us," said freshman Diana Jimenez. "Girls need to learn to talk to one another during the game. We may not be best friends off the field, but we need to be best friends on the field to be successful."

The Monarchs entered Friday's contest with back-to-back losses to College of the Canyons (6-0) and Pierce College (10-1). Valley opened league play with a forfeit victory over the Allan Hancock Bulldogs.

Freshman Michelle Escamilla opened Friday's game with three shots on goal in the first five min-

utes, but was unable to convert the shots into points.

"We gave up some early goals in the first half, but we tightened up on our defense," said Archila. Offensively, we didn't have much luck today."

Renegade Maryellen Bunting had better luck, and put Bakersfield up 1-0 by scoring a goal in the fifteenth minute of play.

Renegade Laura Sanchez added to Bakersfield's lead by scoring just two minutes later.

Haylee Maiden, the Bakersfield goalkeeper, stopped shots on goal by Escamilla, and sophomores Jessie Paul, Myriam Lemailoux and Gladys Nyoth.

Although no goals were scored the second half, the play was full of drama.

The Lady Monarchs frustrated the Renegades by setting traps during the game and drawing the team off sides. The penalties lead to hot tempers for both squads.

Even with the successful traps, Valley failed to cut into the two-goal deficit and wasn't able to muster any type of momentum



ARTAK AYVAZIAN/ VALLEY STAR
FANTASTIC FOUR - Lady Monarch Blanca Valdovinos defends Valley's territory against Alicia Crawford of Bakersfield.

in the second half.

"One shot hit the crossbar, and the other hit the goal post," Archila said. "We had some chances to score, but the ball just didn't want to go in today."

Archila added that teammates

needed to trust one another and play a simple and basic game if they wish to have any chance the rest of the season.

The Monarchs will continue play at home against the Citrus Owls Tuesday, Oct. 18.

FOOTBALL

Monarchs Lose Close Call, Drop to 0-5

BY CHRIS GARCIA
STAFF WRITER

The Valley Monarchs will try to win their first game of the season when they face Los Angeles Southwest College Saturday.

"Our goal for the last five games of the season is to have really good practices and execute well in the game," said head coach Jimmy Sims. "Let the chips fall where they may."

The Monarchs' record fell to 0-5 after a tough loss to the Ventura College Pirates, 23-21, on Oct. 1. The loss to Ventura dropped the Monarchs' record to 0-5, as a fourth-quarter comeback fell short against the Pirates.

The Pirates began their opening drive at their own 20-yard line. The Pirates ran through the Monarch defense and drove the ball to the Monarchs' 6-yard line. However, Monarch safety Garrett Feig turned things around when he intercepted a pass from Ventura quarterback Parise-Bishop, and ran the ball back 80 yards.

The return set up the Monarch offense inside the 20-yard line. Monarch quarterback Troy Jackson rolled out to the right as he threw a lob pass to wide receiver Anthony Palameres for the touchdown, giving Valley an early 7-0 lead.

But on the ensuing kick off, the Pirates had a 53-yard return



DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR
SURPRISE! - Ventura quarterback Brandon Bishop-Parise got a surprise attack by Monarch defense back Ervin Simmons.

and began to drive into Monarch territory. The Monarch defense was able to hold the Pirates to a field goal, but the lead was cut to 7-3 at the end of the first quarter.

"We played good in the first quarter but it wasn't great," said Monarch quarterback Corey Jones, who came on in release of starter Jackson.

Ventura College took control of the game from there and never looked back. The Pirates scored 10 unanswered points in the second quarter. Valley's offense was

kept scoreless in the second and third quarters.

Even though Valley gained 406 total yards of offense and held Ventura to only 226 yards, the Monarchs kept shooting themselves in the foot as they committed key mistakes throughout the game.

In the third quarter, the Pirates blocked a Monarch punt and Ventura's Derek Wilson returned the ball 29 yards for the score. The Monarchs trailed 20-7 to begin the fourth quarter.

With nine minutes left in the game, Valley finally scored again when Jones threw a 22-yard pass to Palameres for a touchdown. The change of quarterback worked for the Monarchs and the play gave Palameres his second score of the game. The play also cut the Pirates' lead to 20-14.

The Monarch defense held Ventura to a 26-yard field goal and gave the offense an opportunity.

Jones led the Valley offense to the Ventura's 17-yard line with a series of small runs and passes.

After three plays, the Monarchs were faced with fourth and two. Valley went for the first down. The play ended in an incomplete pass and gave the Pirates the ball back with 3:28 left in the game.

Valley's defense stopped Ventura on the ensuing drive and gave the ball back to the offense for one last try.

The Monarchs drove 50 yards and ended the drive on a 4-yard bullet pass in the middle of the end zone from Jones to receiver Antoine Palmer. The pass play cut the lead to 23-21 with 29 seconds remaining.

The onside kick by the Monarchs failed.

"This loss was heartbreaking but in football you have to suck it up because you can't let the losses get to you" Monarch running back Abel Ayala said.

VALLEY PEOPLE

Wolman Brings Division I Expertise to Valley College

■ Francois Wolman brings his Division I experience to Valley with the hope to lead the Monarchs to victory.

BY CHRIS GARCIA
STAFF WRITER

Two of the best high school 800-meter runners competed against each other in the summer of 1974 at the National Championships. As the race ended, only two runners beat future mile world record holder Steve Scott. One of runners was Valley College cross country coach Francois Wolman.

Wolman posted 1:52.7 time and placed second in the race.



DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR
OFF TRACK - Monarchs' cross-country and track & field head coach prepares his team for the upcoming cross-country meet.

As a senior who had migrated from Paris at 12, he was one of the best half-mile runner prospects in the country.

"I like it here at Valley

because I feel comfortable and have more freedom in my coaching," said Wolman, who coached high school cross country before coming to Valley. Wolman was

offered several scholarships, but he didn't decide what school to attend until he was approached by running legend Steve Prefontaine. Prefontaine asked Wolman to run for the University of Oregon.

"My first practice at Oregon was an eight-mile run with [Prefontaine]," said Wolman.

He decided to attend the best running school in the country in Oregon. In his freshman year, Wolman was the eleventh man for a cross country team that won the National Championship in 1974.

"The team was so good that I could have been a top-five runner for any other team," Wolman said.

After his sophomore year, Wolman decided to transfer to CSUN and finish his education, where he earned a bachelor's degree in French. He earned

WATER POLO

Women's Water Polo Unsinkable

■ Despite injured and missing players the Lady Monarchs women's water polo fought hard at the Pasadena Invitational, and tied 2-2.

BY MARCO ELORREAGA
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The Valley College women's water polo team continued its season at the Pasadena Invitational, coming out of the two-day tournament 2-2. During Saturday's games against Citrus of Azusa and Trade Tech, the team met with two formidable opponents - frustration and exhaustion - but this is nothing new for Head Coach Mike Santo, who has been in the game for 32 years.

Playing with no team substitutes and short three starting players, the Monarchs came up short in their first game Saturday, losing 19-3 against Citrus after all seven players played the entire four quarters with only couple-minute breaks between. The second game against Trade Tech fared better winning 14-9, though losing Megan Wilson, who battled a cold, between games.

"It's my first year at Valley," said Santo. "But what I've seen is that they don't quit."

Santo pointed out that each Monarch played throughout the team, while any six of the Citrus team's 14 players could be switched out at any time.

Field player Leiana Wilson took the reigns from former goalie Nicole Joslyn, who dislocated her kneecap earlier this season, adding to the obstacles the women's water polo team is facing.

"I fell way more confident as a goalie than I did before," Wilson said after a week as goalie. "I try to lead the team when I can because I have a clearer view of the whole pool."

"People can say that it's ultimately my fault for not having more players, but of the 10 women on the squad, I recruited seven of them," said Santo, pointing out that playing down a player tested each team member's limits.

"Our strength is that we have to play as a team," said Santo. "Baby steps, that's what it takes. Sometimes our baby steps are covered by giant steps backward, but at least we are moving forward, and I hope that these baby steps will become larger steps and we we'll be recognized as a team to be considered."

his teaching credential from UCLA and attended Pepperdine University, where he earned a master's degree in psychology.

The UCLA graduate decided to become a coach. He got his first coaching job at Keppel High School in Alhambra. He coached at several high schools before taking a job as head cross country coach for the Santa Monica Track Club in 1995. He took the club to three straight state meets.

In 1999, Wolman was offered a job at Valley College. Wolman is also a full-time teacher at College of the Canyons where he teaches five French classes.

"We hate it in practice sometimes but we realize that we are lucky because coach gives us Division I training," said top runner Jordan Castellanos.